

### Remarks

The Office Action rejected to claim 58 as depending on itself; this has been corrected.

The Office Action also objected to claim 2's recitation of "light pump;" this has been eliminated.

Claim 7 was objected to on the basis that the phrase "electrodeless lamp" is not disclosed in the specification. However, the Examiner's attention is directed to page 8, line 2 in which this is discussed, so the objection to claim 7 is respectfully traversed.

The specification was said not to recite "UVV" so that has been taken out of claim 9.

The Office Action also objected to claim 39 as including the phrase "dose region" and not supporting same in the specification. However, that phrase does appear at page 13, lines 16 and 17. Nonetheless, claim 39 has been amended to eliminate that language.

None of the foregoing amendments are believed to be narrowing amendments, so no prosecution history estoppel should arise.

The claims were rejected as being obvious from or disclosed by U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0045868 to DiStefano. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As recited in claim 1, Applicant's invention provides a blood purification system for the sterilization of microorganisms. The system includes a blood purifier including a blood inlet and a blood outlet, at least one light source connected by at least one optical connection positioned to provide a focused controllable light output to the blood purifier, and a control mechanism. The result is the production of at least one "UV" dose zone for the effective sterilization of microorganisms in the blood. Claim 39 and claim 61 both refer to a housing for the purifier in such a way as to indicate a treatment that is not *in vivo*.

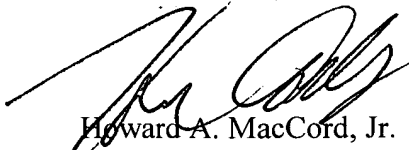
The DiStefano reference discloses an apparatus for exposing blood to UV light while it is still in the patient. In the DiStefano apparatus, a needle is inserted into a vein, and a saline solution bathes the tip of the needle. An optical fiber passing through the needle carries UV and visible light alternately to the patient's venous a system to kill pathogens in the venous system. DiStefano's apparatus would not be useful for techniques such as sterilizing microorganisms in a blood supply outside of the human body, such as blood supply obtained from blood donors.

Having a purifier including an inlet and an outlet, Applicant's apparatus enables purification outside of the body, something simply not disclosed or contemplated by DiStefano. DiStefano provides no suggestion that such an extracorporeal treatment should be provided. Nor do the other references cited in the Office Action.

Accordingly, it is believed this application is now in condition for allowance and same in earnestly solicited. Should any small matter remain requiring resolution, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned for expeditious handling.

A supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for the Examiner's consideration of additional references in connection with this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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